

SOME IMAGES FROM THE 2010 ASO PREHISTORIC CULTURES SYMPOSIUM

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A variety of archaeological exhibits graced the display room at the ASO Symposium, "Prehistoric Cultures," this past May in Columbus. The room featured artifacts and information from Ohio sites as well as those of other states.

Figures 1-2 were part of a display by the Dorchester County Historical Society of Cambridge, Maryland. Many of the artifacts were found in areas near Chesapeake Bay. Terry Crannell, curator of Native American artifacts from the Dorchester Society, accompanied this exhibit. Dr. Darrin Lowery, who spoke at the Symposium on archaeology around the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic coast area had encouraged the Dorchester Society to participate. Figure 1 shows a frame of Maryland points, which are curiously similar in appearance to archaic bifurcates and other types found in Ohio. Crannell commented that most of the points found in the area are small. He said that because there are no natural flint deposits on the eastern shore, many pieces were made from cobbles left on glacial sand bars using a technique called "bi-polar reduction." One rare large blade can be seen in figure 2. The large point was found on Taylor's Island, Maryland and measures more than 8 inches in length. According to Crannell, those who have studied the large blade are uncertain of the type of material from which it was made.

Figure 4 shows two remarkable artifacts from Monroe County, Mississippi exhibited by Dr. R. Michael Gramly, who discussed them in detail during his presentation at the Symposium. These extraordinarily large artifacts were found together. Both are notched near one end and are quite smooth to the touch. Dr. Gramly believes they may be "abstract stone sculptures" that may represent male and female ancestors, and were possibly used in important rituals. The pieces date to the Archaic Period.

A number of extraordinary Ohio artifacts were also among the highlights of the exhibit. Figure 5 shows a case of fine sandal-sole gorgets from western Ohio, figure 6 shows a frame of drilled bear teeth from the collection of Dennis Link, and figure 7 shows a case of exceptional fluted Ohio paleo blades from the collection of Robert Converse.

Figures 8 & 9 show part of a display of historic artifacts from McKee's Town site

in Logan County, Ohio dating from 1778 to 1786. William George Shipley spoke in detail about the site and attempts at preserving such fragile iron artifacts. The exhibit contained hundreds of artifacts recovered from the site over 15 years, including several tomahawks and other trade goods.

Taken all together, this was an extraordinary collection of prehistoric and historic pieces. Much thanks to all of the participants of this amazing grouping of archaeological displays.



Figures 1 & 2. Frames of Maryland points from the Dorchester County Historical Society.

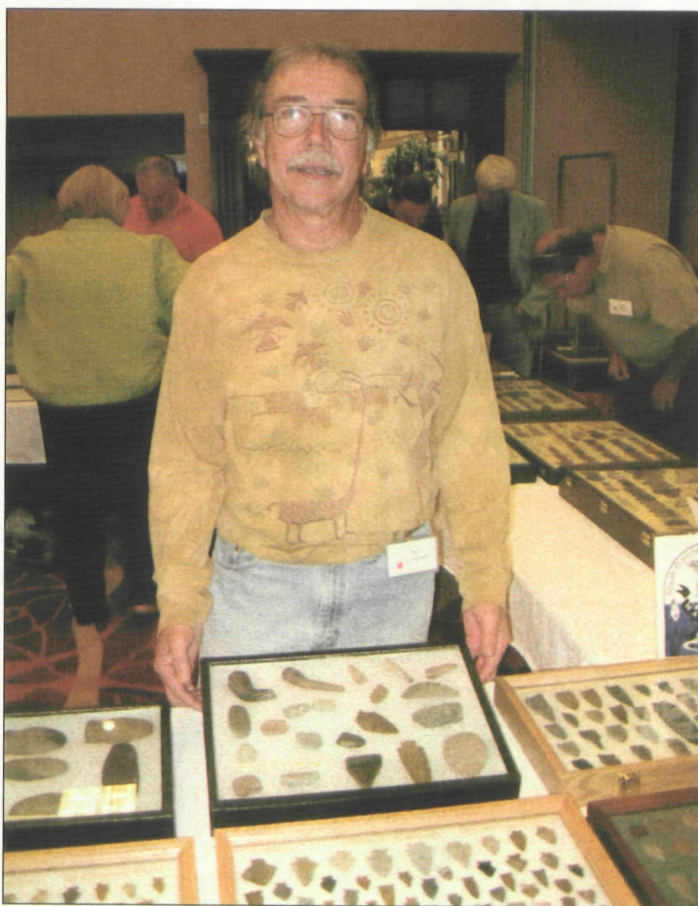


Figure 3 Terry Crannell shares exhibit of Maryland artifacts.



Figure 6 Drilled bear teeth from the collection of Dennis Link.



Figure 7 Ohio Paleo blades.



Figure 8 Display from Logan County site: McKee's Town.



Figure 4 Large stone sculptures from Mississippi.



Figure 5 Sandal-Sole gorgets.



Figure 9 Two nicely preserved axes.